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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Army, DIA and DOS
review(s) completed.

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USSR



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2. Yugoslavia expects Soviet proposal for Five Power Pact at UN General Assembly:

The Soviet Union will propose a Five Power Pact as its main theme at the 6th UN General Assembly Session this November, in the opinion of the Yugoslav UN delegate. The Yugoslav delegate

thinks the USSR will present a completely drafted project at the meeting and has urged his government to develop a counterplan.

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Comment: At previous sessions of the General Assembly, the USSR introduced general proposals around which its propaganda themes rotated, such as prohibition of atomic weapons, reduction of armaments, and condemnation of preparations for a new war. The proposal for a Five Power Pact was introduced during the 1949 session and repeated in 1950, but never enumerated any specific terms for such a pact. Reintroduction of the idea this fall would coincide with the completion of the Communists' Five Power Peace Pact signature campaign.

FAR EAST

3. Viet Minh army morale reportedly declining:

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25X1 [redacted] Viet Minh forces are reported [redacted] to be undergoing increasing hardship from lack of food and medicines. Thirty to sixty percent of the troops in large units are unable to fight due to sickness. The result has been a decline in troop morale, an increase in desertions, and failure to fill recruitment quotas.

Comment: [redacted]

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25X1 [redacted] indicates that the Viet Minh is increasingly hard-pressed to meet the material needs of the population within its zone and that civilian morale has consequently declined. [redacted] that Viet Minh armed forces are suffering a similar lowering of morale.

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NEAR EAST

4. British relax military alerts prior to Iran's ultimatum:

[redacted] The US Army Attaché in London reports two military indications of reduced British tension over the Iranian situation. The units involved

in the contingent plan for protecting and evacuating British citizens in Abadan have now been placed on a 72-hour alert. In addition, although naval craft in the area must remain in the vicinity of the Persian Gulf, all except one cruiser are now allowed to leave Abadan.

Comment: On 24 August, the day after the oil negotiations finally broke down, the military units involved in the plan had been placed on a six-hour alert.

It is not yet known how British military activity will be affected by Prime Minister Mossadeq's 5 September ultimatum that the 350 technicians still at the Abadan refinery must be withdrawn unless the oil negotiations are resumed within fifteen days. Though British citizens were voluntarily withdrawn from the oilfields, the British Government has indicated its intention to keep the remaining technicians at Abadan as long as possible.

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WESTERN EUROPE

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6. Irish request US assistance in military purchases:

[Redacted]

Irish External Affairs Minister Aiken has approached one of General Eisenhower's American political advisers in Paris with an informal request for assistance in purchasing American

military equipment, promising in return very limited cooperation with NATO in military staff talks on defense plans. Aiken indicated that the new Irish Government was much concerned about the problem of defense and wanted a small amount of up-to-date military equipment for training purposes.

Aiken gave his personal view that there was no possibility of Ireland's joining NATO or other collective defense arrangements at this time.

Comment: This is the first reported approach to the US for military assistance on the part of the DeValera government which came into power in June. Though introducing a military budget about 25 percent higher than its predecessor's, the DeValera government has publicly reaffirmed Irish neutrality, and has given no countenance to any suggestions that Ireland might in effect be willing to trade bases for military assistance. The form of the present approach, which easily lends itself to official denials, further suggests that DeValera is not yet ready to challenge Irish neutrality sentiment to obtain US military equipment.

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